

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 02133 011043Z

12  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W  
----- 054552

R 010717Z APR 75  
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4266  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T AMMAN 2133

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ENRG, ETRN, LE, JO, SA, SY  
SUBJECT: JORDAN APPROACH TO SAUDIS ON TAPLINE

1. PRIME MINISTER TOLD AMBASSADOR MARCH 30 THAT JORDANIAN ENVOYS NABULSI AND SHOMAN SPOKE WITH KING FAISAL IN RIYADH EARLY LAST WEEK BEFORE HIS ASSASSINATION ABOUT TAPLINE. IN ADDITION THEY ALSO DISCUSSED THE ISSUE WITH PRINCE FAHD. RIFAI REPORTS THAT FAISAL WAS EXTREMELY FORTHCOMING AND SAID HE WOULD NOT ALLOW JORDAN TO RUN OUT OF OIL AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE IT IF NECESSARY. HE ALSO INDICATED DISPLEASURE WITH TAPLINE OVER ITS ROLE IN THE PROBLEM. BOTH FAISAL AND FAHD, ACCORDING TO RIFAI, INDICATED THAT IT WAS SAUDI ARABIA'S INTENTION TO KEEP PIPELINE OPEN AND OPERATING. NABULSI LATER TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT FAHD HAD SAID: "WHATEVER WE HAVE IS YOURS."

2. RIFAI SAID THAT NEXT STEP WILL BE FOR THE KING AND PERHAPS SOME OTHER JORDANIANS TO DISCUSS AGAIN THE ISSUE WITH KING KHALID AND PRINCE FAHD DURING A TRIP WHICH THE KING PROPOSES TO MAKE TO RIYADH IN NEXT TEN DAYS TO TWO WEEKS. AFTER THAT, NEGOTIATORS WILL WORK OUT TECHNICAL DETAILS. RIFAI SAID HE IS FULLY PREPARED TO PAY TAPLINE

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FOR TRANSPORTING THE OIL AND ANY REASONABLE

PROFIT. HE EXPECTS TO MAKE A DIRECT DEAL WITH THE SAUDIS ON PURCHASE AND TAX ARRANGEMENTS FOR CRUDE.

3. I ASKED RIFAI WHERE THIS LEFT HIM WITH THE SETTLEMENT OF TAPLINE DEBT. HE REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHERE HE COULD GET \$110 MILLION TO PAY TAPLINE'S CLAIM, AND SAID HE HAD MADE A REASONABLE OFFER. HE HAD ALREADY DEVELOPED A \$100 MILLION COUNTER-CLAIM AND EXPECTED NOW TO TRY TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH TAPLINE ON SOLVING THAT ISSUE. NABULSI WAS MORE PRACTICAL. HE SAID THAT IF THE SAUDIS HELP ON FUTURE PRICING, HE IS SURE THEY CAN ALSO HELP IN CLEARING UP PAST DEBTS TO TAPLINE, WHICH AMOUNT, IN ANY EVENT, TO MONEY WHICH IS DUE TO SAUDI ARABIA.

4. ON THE ISSUE OF KEEPING TAPLINE OPEN, RIFAI SAID HE HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE, BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT THIS WAS NOT A CENTERPIECE OF DISCUSSION IN RIYADH.  
SUDDARTH

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM PIPELINES, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**To:** STATE  
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